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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York.

### PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's opening prayer will be offered by the Reverend Dr. Delman L. Coates from the Mount Ennon Baptist Church in Clinton, MD.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God our Holy Parent, You who are the Creator and the sustainer of life; we come to You today in humble adoration, thanking You for this day and for this occasion that brings us together. We ask that You would consecrate our hearts, anoint our minds, and commission our hands to serve the people of this great Nation.

We gather today in the midst of unique and unprecedented times, times of great challenge and times of tremendous difficulty. Help us to discern Your will and to seek Your direction as we endeavor to confront the fiscal and legislative challenges of our day.

Grant unto us clarity of thought and unity of purpose in our effort to make this Nation and this world a better place. Enable us to be a voice for the voiceless, hope to the hopeless, and help to the helpless. We pray for strength in both the public and the private affairs of our lives. We need You to be for us what we cannot be for ourselves. May we have the character and the fortitude to lead with integrity, to listen with clarity, and to serve with sincerity.

As we start this day, we ask that You would raise the crown of righteousness above our heads, and we pray that You would encourage us to grow tall enough to wear it. These and all blessings we ask in the name of Love, Hope, and Peace. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, May 7, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR VITIATION

Mr. REID. Madam President, as if in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate action of May 6, 2009, with respect to Calendar No. 85 be vitiated.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Following remarks of the leaders—I understand that the Republican leader will be a little bit late getting here; he had a meeting that is taking more time than he expected—there will be a period of morning business until 10:30, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. The majority will control the first half and the Republicans will control the second half.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 454, the Weapon Systems Acquisition Reform Act.

Last night we were able to reach an agreement to limit the number of first-degree amendments to the bill. We hope to vote on the remaining amendments and on passage of the bill today. I am confident there will be votes throughout the day.

Last night cloture was filed on the motion to proceed to the credit card legislation. After having done that, I received a call from the chairman of the committee, Chairman DODD. He and Senator SHELBY have worked out language on the credit card legislation which would make it easier to proceed.

I am confident we will not have to have that vote tomorrow to invoke cloture on a motion to proceed, or at least I hope not.

The work done by Senators LEVIN and MCCAIN is exemplary. This is a complicated piece of legislation. They worked on it together. They worked with the White House, they worked with the minority staff, the majority staff, and they were able to get this agreement with exemplary work. I commend and applaud both of these fine Senators for allowing us to move to this extremely important legislation. As we heard from the opening statements of Senators LEVIN and MCCAIN, huge amounts of money have been wasted in years past. We all want to do the very best we can for the Pentagon and the U.S. military, but we

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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